

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Savage on 1/7/2009.

In claims:

Claim 28, line 11; between “**window**” and “**is**”; insert **--narrower than the first amplitude window--**.

Claim 28, line 15, “**an amplitude window**” should be changed to **--either the first or the second amplitude window--**.

Claim 28, line 16; “**a second control**” should be changed to **--a control--**.

Claim 30, line 1; “**the second control**” should be changed to **--the control--**.

Claim 32, line 2; “**a switch**” should be changed to **--switching--**

Claim 33; line 2; “**the second control**” should be changed to **--the control--**.

Claim 33, line 3; “**the clocked**” should be changed to **--a clocked--**.

Claim 37, line 3; “**an amplitude window**” should be changed to **--either the first or the second amplitude window--**.

Claim 37, line 4; “**an amplitude window**” should be changed to **--either the first or the second amplitude window--**.

Claim 38, line 3; "**an amplitude window**" should be changed to **--either the first or the second amplitude window--**.

Claim 47, line 11; between "**window**" and "**in**"; insert **--narrower than the set amplitude window--**.

Claim 49, line 3; "**an amplitude window**" should be changed to **--either the set or the narrower amplitude window--**.

Claim 50, line 6; **an amplitude window**" should be changed to **--either the set or the narrower amplitude window--**.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 28-54 are allowed.
3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The closest prior art fails to explicitly disclose wherein if the VCO control voltage settles within a first amplitude window, a second narrower amplitude window narrower than the first amplitude window is selected and the VCO control voltage is compared with the upper and lower voltage levels of the second amplitude window; if the VCO control voltage settles within the second amplitude window or a further subsequent even narrower amplitude window, phase lock is achieved; if the VCO control voltage does not settle within either the first or the second amplitude window, the comparison device provides a signal for providing a second control signal to the VCO for switching the VCO to another frequency band; and for the other frequency band, the VCO control voltage signal is compared with at least one of the amplitude windows to

determine if phase lock is achieved in the other frequency band, the distinct feature of the claims renders them allowable.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DHAVAL PATEL whose telephone number is (571)270-1818. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Shuwang Liu can be reached on 571-272-3036. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dhaval Patel/
Examiner, Art Unit 2611
1/7/2010

/Shuwang Liu/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2611